

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
AID-05 IGA-02 ORM-02 /067 W  
-----240527Z 060175 /14

R 231759Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0662  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL OPORTO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA  
USMISSION NATO  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-2  
TAGS: PINT PO PGOV  
SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: CABINET CHANGES

REF: LISBON 2276 (DTG 221252Z MAR 77)

SUMMARY: RUMORS OF IMMINENT CABINET CHANGES ARE RAMPANT.  
HOWEVER, THE MAN WHO KNOWS, PRIME MINISTER SOARES IS NOT  
TALKING. END SUMMARY.

1. CABINET CHANGES: SPECULATION IN POLITICAL CIRCLES ARE  
IMMINENT CABINET CHANGES CONTINUES TO MOUNT. LABOR MINISTER  
MARCELO CURTO, SOARES'S TOP AIDE VITOR DA CUNHA REGO, AND  
COMMUNICATIONS STATE SECRETARY MANUEL ALEGRE ARE AMONG THOSE  
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MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED AS LIKELY TO BE REPLACED. GOP  
ALREADY HAS AGREEMENT FOR CUNHA REGO'S ASSIGNMENT TO MADRID.  
IN ADDITION NEW MINISTERS OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE ARE  
EXPECTED TO BE NAMED. THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY PORTFOLIOS  
ARE NOW BEING FILLED ON AN INTERIM BASIS BY AGRICULTURE  
MINISTER BARRETO AND PLANNING MINISTER SOUSA GOMES.

2. GALVAO DE MELO VERSUS THE CDS: THE RECENT EXPULSION OF INDEPENDENT DEPUTY GALVAO DE MELO FROM THE CDS PARLIAMENTARY GROUP CONTINUED TO REVERBERATE MELO, THE CDS, AND THE INTER-ORGANIZATIONS OF REFUGEES (IOR) MADE STATEMENTS:

(A) NO REGRETS FROM GALVAO DE MELO:

-- THE CDS EXPULSION NOTICE WAS DISHONEST BECAUSE IT INSINUATED MUCH BUT CLARIFIED LITTLE. HE REJECTS A DICTATORSHIP WHILE ADMITTING THE POSSIBILITY OF UNDEMOCRATIC SOLUTIONS.

-- HIS INDEPENDENT STATUS PERMITS HIM TO SPEAK HIS MIND ABOUT EITHER CDS PRESIDENT FREITAS DO AMARAL OR PRESIDENT EANES.

(B) CDS SAYS EXPULSION WAS CORRECT:

-- MELO'S MOST RECENT STATEMENT CONFIRMS THE CORRECTNESS OF THE CDS DECISION TO EXPEL HIM.

-- MELO CONTINUES TO ACCEPT TOTALITARIAN SOLUTIONS.

(C) IOR SUPPORTS ITS MAN:

-- THE CDS, IN ITS UNWILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT MELO'S CRITICISMS, HAS SHOWN ITSELF TO BE "UNDEMOCRATIC AND RIGHTIST."

-- MOST REFUGEES SUPPORT GALVAO DE MELO AND NOT THE CDS.

-- THE EXPULSION OF MELO WILL CUT CDS SUPPORT IN HALF.

3. COMMENT: SPECULATION OVER THE EXTENT AND TIMING OF CABINET CHANGES HAS BEEN WIDESPREAD FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. PRESIDENT EANES HAS MADE IT CLEAR TO SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT THAT HE WANTS A MORE EFFICIENT CABINET. PS INSIDER RUI MATEUS SAID SOARES PLANNED TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE CHANGES AT A MEETING OF THE PS SECRETARIAT ON MAR 22. THE DISCUSSION WAS DEFERRED DUE TO SOARES'S MILD CASE OF FLU. MATEUS, HOWEVER THOUGHT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOME CHANGES WOULD BE ANNOUNCED BEFORE THE END OF THIS WEEK. ONLY SOARES KNOWS WHAT MINISTRIES WILL BE AFFECTED AND HE IS NOT TALKING.  
CARLUCCI

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET, PARTY EXPULSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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**Reference:** 77 LISBON 2276  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, PO, (CURTO, MARCELO), (ALEGRE, MANUEL), (DA CUNHA REGO, VICTOR)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009